

Minute

Pension Fund Sub-committee, together with Pension Board

Thursday, 19 September 2024, 09:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

Pension Fund Sub-committee:

Councillors P Lindsay Hall, Rachael A King, Kristopher D Leask and Mellissa-Louise Thomson.

Pension Board:

Employer Representatives:

Councillors Graham A Bevan, David Dawson and Owen Tierney, Orkney Islands Council.
Karen Ritch, Orkney Ferries Limited.

Trade Union Representatives:

Karen Kent (Unison) and Eileen Swanney (Unison).

Clerk

- Sandra Craigie, Committees Officer.

In Attendance

- Erik Knight, Head of Finance.
- Shonagh Merriman, Service Manager (Corporate Finance).
- Katie Gibson, Team Manager (Finance).
- Paul Maxton, Solicitor.

In Attendance via remote link (Microsoft Teams)

- Gareth Waterson, Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration.

Apologies

Pension Fund Sub-committee:

- Councillor Alexander G Cowie.
- Councillor Steven B Heddle.
- Councillor Heather N Woodbridge.

Pension Board:

- Eoin Miller, Trade Union Representative.

Not Present

Trade Union Representative:

- Mark Vincent (GMB).

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

Chair

- Sandra Craigie, Committees Officer (for Item 1).
- Councillor P Lindsay Hall (for Items 2 to 5).

1. Appointment of Chair

As both the Leader and the Depute Leader had intimated their apologies for this meeting, the Clerk called for nominations for a Chair for this meeting, and the Sub-committee:

Resolved that Councillor P Lindsay Hall be appointed Chair for this meeting.

Councillor P Lindsay Hall took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

2. Revenue Expenditure Outturn

After consideration of a report by the Head of Finance, copies of which had been circulated, the Sub-committee:

Noted:

2.1. The revenue expenditure outturn statement in respect of service areas for which the Pension Fund Sub-committee was responsible, for financial year 2023/24, attached as Annex 1 to the report by the Head of Finance, indicating a budget underspend position of £33,004,100.

2.2. The financial detail by service area statement in respect of service areas for which the Pension Fund Sub-committee was responsible, for financial year 2023/24, attached as Annex 2 to the report by the Head of Finance.

The Sub-committee scrutinised:

2.3. The explanations given and actions proposed in respect of significant budget variances, as outlined in the Budget Action Plan, attached as Annex 3 to the report by the Head of Finance, and obtained assurance that appropriate action was taken with regard to significant budget variances.

3. Revenue Expenditure Monitoring

After consideration of a report by the Head of Finance, copies of which had been circulated, the Sub-committee:

Noted:

3.1. The revenue financial summary statement in respect of service areas for which the Pension Fund Sub-committee was responsible, for the period 1 April to 30 June 2024, attached as Annex 1 to the report by the Head of Finance, indicating a budget deficit position of £7,878,900.

3.2. The revenue financial detail by Service Area statement in respect of service areas for the Pension Fund Sub-committee was responsible, for the period 1 April to 30 June 2024, attached as Annex 2 to the report by the Head of Finance.

The Sub-committee scrutinised:

3.3. The explanations given and actions proposed in respect of significant budget variances, as outlined in the Budget Action Plan, attached as Annex 3 to the report by the Head of Finance, and obtained assurance that appropriate action was being taken with regard to significant budget variances.

4. Statement of Managed Funds

On the motion of Councillor P Lindsay Hall, seconded by Councillor Rachael A King, the Sub-committee resolved that the public be excluded from the meeting for this item on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended.

After consideration of a report by the Head of Finance, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Service Manager (Corporate Finance), the Sub-committee:

Scrutinised:

4.1. The investment monitoring report for the Pension Fund produced by Hymans Robertson, the Council's appointed investment advisor, attached as Appendix 1 to the report by the Head of Finance, relating to the performance of managed funds for the quarter to 30 June 2024 and obtained assurance.

4.2. The Baillie Gifford Global Alpha Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures report for the year ending 31 March 2024, attached as Appendix 2 to the Head of Finance.

4.3. The LGIM Climate Impact Pledge 2024, attached as Appendix 3 to the Head of Finance.

Councillors David Dawson and Kristopher D Leask joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

5. Conclusion of Meeting

At 10:08 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: P L Hall.